

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 23, 2006, and the patents and publications cited therein have been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above changes and following remarks reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

The Amendment To The Claims

Applicants have amended claim 1 to better distinguish over the applied art. In particular, Applicant has amended claim 1 so that claim 1 now requires that , the array is configured with $P + 1$ of the storage devices as parity storage devices and $(M \times N) - (P + 1)$ of the storage devices as data storage devices, and that information contained in the parity storage devices is determined based on a system of linear equations in which linear equations based on the M rows being based on simple parity and linear equations based on the N rows being based on a generalized parity code. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, at least in paragraphs 25-36.

Additionally, Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 7.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the claims(s) contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the invention(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicants have canceled claims 4 and 7.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Over Admitted Prior Art

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by that which Applicant admits is prior art. In particular, the Examiner indicates that Figure 1 is the admitted prior art.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to better distinguish over the applied art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention according to either of amended claim 1 and claim 2 is patentable over the admitted prior art of Figure 1. More specifically, the admitted prior art of Figure 1 does not disclose or suggest a storage system comprising a plurality of storage devices arranged in an array having M rows and N columns, such that M is greater than or equal to three and N is greater than or equal to three, such that the array has a Hamming distance of d when P of the storage devices are configured as parity storage devices and $(M \times N) - P$ of the storage devices are configured as data storage devices, such that the array has a Hamming distance of $d + 1$ when $P + 1$ of the storage devices are configured as parity storage devices and $(M \times N) - (P + 1)$ of the storage devices are configured as data storage devices, and such that the array is configured with $P + 1$ of the storage devices as parity storage devices and $(M \times N) - (P + 1)$ of the storage devices as data storage devices, and information contained in the parity storage devices is determined based on a system of linear equations in which the linear equations based on the M rows is based on simple parity and the linear equations based on the N rows is based on a generalized parity code.

Thus, amended claim 1 is allowable over the admitted prior art of Figure 1. It follows that claim 2, which incorporates the limitations of amended claim 1, is allowable over the admitted prior art of Figure 1 for at least the same reasons that amended claim 1 is considered allowable.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection and allow claims 1 and 2.

CONCLUSION

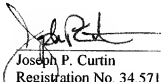
In view of the above amendments and arguments, it is urged that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A general authorization under 37 C.F.R. § 1.25(b), second sentence, is hereby given to credit or debit Deposit Account No. 09-0441 for the instant filing and for any other fees during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18.

It is requested that this application be passed to issue with claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 17, 2006



Joseph P. Curtin
Registration No. 34,571
1469 N.W. Morgan Lane
Portland, Oregon 97229-5291
(503) 296-8373
(503) 297-0452 (facsimile)